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SCORING THE CLUBS

FRIDAY, MAY 14

Possum Dixon, Permanent Green Light at Raji's.

•Having spent a fair portion of my waking hours dissing Possum Dixon, here I go a-praising the trio, but I must explain: at first perusal, Possum Dixon were a dreadfully collegiate 'n' campy ensemble, the spittin' image of one of the dumbest musical acts of all time, the Violent Femmes. But as revoltingly twee as Possum used to be, there were some really good songs among the saccharine, as well as a nifty Richman tribute ("Hospital"). By now time and smarts have made the Possums their own boys. They've recently signed a deal with one of the majors, so big ger things are coming, and you won't be able to get close enough to "pants" them again (this happened at their last gig). Permanent Green Light are named after a Gods' song, already a sign of genius, and love the pre-Tommy Who to death. As we all know, retro-a-go-go is just plain wrong, but with the endless clatter of machines as the future of pop, a bite outta the past isn't sinful at all. Bite away. (Johnny Angel)

WE ALSO RECOMMEND:
JAMES ARMSTRONG BAND *at the Boathouse.*
SYKOTIK SINFONEY, SLUMLORD, BLACK TEGU *at the Central.*
SO WHAT, JEREMIAH WEED *at the Coconut Teazer.*
PETER CASE'S ELECTRIC BAND *at McCabe's.*

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Three Day Stubble, Kevin "The Thai Elvis" Thongpricha and other assorted illness at Fuzzyland.

•From suburban Houston it came, sporting more pomade than the entire cast of *Grease*, glasses that made Woody Allen look hip, and more polyester than a dozen lame '70s revival acts (only *this* stuff was never cool). It sang psychotically mindless ditties like "Be Nice," in which we are reminded to "Be nice to the people who want you to touch their heads," and "Figshta," the story of a girl who fell in with the wrong crowd, joined a cult and changed her name to Figshta. Musically akin to a lobotomized Captain Beefheart, this was high surrealism in nerd-rock clothing, and it greened an idiot grin as it giggled aloud its infernal name — Three Day Stubble. Save for a scattered few ill-publicized shows, Los Angeles has been Stubble-starved since the band first rubbed and wiggled into SoCal way back in '83, and a decade has done little to dilute the mind-numbing intensity of the Stubble Experience. In fact, the live shows are better than ever, and with the addition of new members Mr. Hungry and Murderer Bob, along with the release of the wonderfully twisted *Dark Wafer* CD, this may be the year that "Stubblemania" infects the entire globe, or at least Fuzzyland! (See Other rock.) (D Bolles)

Weapon of Choice

Weapon of Choice at the Roxy.

•Purveyors of a musical concept they call "nutmeg" (but as in crazy, out of bounds, meg as in mega, bigger than-life entertainment), Weapon of Choice have managed to create quite a buzz around town. Despite what you may have heard, whether it be the fact that the band's dynamic leader Lonnie is brothers with new Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist Arik, or the controversy over their post-King verdict T-shirt depicting a youth headed toward Simi Valley with a torch (the media got their message wrong — it was a torch of liberty), what's most notable about this multiethnic posse is their ability to re-create a classic funk sound in the tradition of Sly Stone and Parliament, taking what was best about those greats and stretching it further in every direction, from reggae to soul to jazz. With a line-up that includes a violin and trombone, this six-piece ensemble offers unusually satisfying hip-grinding grooves as well as some socially conscious pieces of wisdom in tunes like "Black Rod" and "Slavedriver," presenting varied perspectives on discrimination, violence and repression. Though Weapon of Choice are no Chili Pepper clones, they do seem to share the same passionate respect for their rock and R&B predecessors as well as the creativity to make it all new again. (Lina Lecaro)

WE ALSO RECOMMEND:
THE APACHE DANCERS, TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD, NOGOODNIKS *at Raise Cool.*
RICHARD MELTZER, GREG BURK, WEBA & HARRY KNOWS QUARTET, JAZZ BLAUX, MANZANITA SISTERS *at Highland Grounds.*
YOUNG DUBLINERS *at Fair City.*
BLUE BONNETS *at King King.*
ADRIAN LEGG *at McCabe's.*
D'ARCY'S KISS, AEROSOL, POTHOLE, FREAKSHOW HOEDOWN *at Raji's.*
BLIND JOI HILL *at the Sunset Social Club.*

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Pikme-Up/King King Benefit with **Exene Cervenka, Extra Fancy, Rubyfish, Jump With Joey, Groovin' High** and more.

Exene Cervenka

•The Pikme-Up, one of L.A.'s first in the new wave of coffeehouses (and consistently one of the finest environments of entertainments), and the King King, a favorite blues/roots/salsa/jazz and celeb hang, are housed together comfy on the corner of La Brea and Sixth. They complement each other — one caters to those who want quiet conversation, a cuppa joe and maybe a poetry reading, while the other exists primarily for the purpose of great music, big riffs and lots of sweaty dancing. It's possible to enjoy both of these venues in one night — but it may not be for much longer, as both clubs are apparently being threatened with eviction by the landlord. This benefit, then, will come to the rescue (or at least try to). For $10 you'll be able to gain entrance to both places for the entire length of the shows they're putting on, and the event promises to be a doozy. At the Pikme-Up, in addition to a silent art auction, there'll be poetry by Exene Cervenka and husband Viggo Mortensen, and acoustic sets by Beck, Rob Zabrecky, Kristian Hoffman and Olivia Barash. In addition, there will be performances by popular locals Extra Fancy, Rubyfish, Charm and Milli

SCORING CONTINUES . . .

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